

FREMONT BOARD OF SELECTMEN**13 MARCH 2008****APPROVED 03/18/2008**

At 6:05 pm the Board's meeting was called to order by Gene Cordes. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes and Peter Bolduc; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

Carlson handed out copies of the agenda and the Board began to review mail and the agenda.

At 6:10 pm John Wilder came into the Board's meeting. He wanted to talk with the Board about a proposal to relocate the Fremont Post Office to his project Coopers Village. He said he had talked with the Fremont Postmaster and learned that there it had been termed a "hazardous condition" at the current post office location because it was not large enough to accommodate the carriers and all their routes. This is why the carriers were moved to Raymond.

Carlson had expressed to Wilder earlier this week when he came to schedule a meeting that to support a post office in an alternate location meant that the current landowner (who the post office rents from) would then lose that. Bolduc said that the Town does not want to discriminate against the current owner.

Wilder said that he has heard from the Postmaster that a lot of people in town are complaining to the Postmaster that they have to go to Raymond to pick things up, and there is also a reduction in hours open in Fremont.

Wilder said that after talking to the Postmasters, he was given the idea of calling Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter's office and they are trying to help him, but they want to make sure the Town is also behind this effort.

Cordes suggested that the Board write a letter supporting expansion of services that are needed in Fremont, including additional parking capacity, full range of services, and hours of operation more in line with a commuter's hours.

It is unknown what the current lease arrangements are but Wilder said the post office is paying rent in Fremont and in Raymond for the Fremont carriers to be housed there.

Bolduc expressed concern about the owner of the current post office building in Fremont being given an opportunity to enlarge the building or make accommodations to suit the needs there. Wilder did not know if that had happened.

There were no objections to it being at the Coopers Village location, but the Selectmen did not want to campaign for one location over another, only for a full range of services to be available to Fremont residents locally.

Cordes suggested that the Board's letter indicate that the Town has become aware over time that there is a lack of capacity / space in the current Fremont building, and encourage them to do what is necessary such that there could be a full range of hours of operation and services in Fremont. If the post office was relocated to a commercial location in Fremont, the Board had no objection to that.

There was discussion about the common sense approach to have commerce located in one place in Town. Wilder said there are a couple hundred parking spaces at Coopers Village.

Wilder said that if necessary, his next step could be to walk around with a petition to have residents sign in support of a new location. He said he was willing to do this if necessary.

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Selectmen stated they thought it would work fine at the Coopers Village location, but felt the owner of the existing building (Beede Hill Road) should be given an opportunity to make changes that might accommodate the full range of services, such as expand the building.

Selectmen agreed that the postal service should fix the problem and this could be a possible solution

Wilder said there is some money out there as they are building five new post offices elsewhere. There was discussion about email and what that might have done to the US Postal Service business.

Wilder thanked the Board and left the meeting at 6:25 pm. At this time Mike Queene of Bestway Disposal came into the meeting.

Selectmen thanked Mr Queene for coming and said they had invited the two low bidders back this evening to see if there is any way to chop down the proposal or level it out. Cordes explained that last week at the Board's meeting, there was discussion about the fact that the Bestway proposal was missing components of the original bid specification, in that no proposal had been submitted that had no fuel surcharge added to it. This morning, Mike Hastings of Bestway dropped off a one page form (from the original RFP) with a bid price of \$211,000 for a fixed price contract with no fuel surcharge.

Queene explained that the base of the fuel charge is 40 gallons per truck times two trucks or 160 gallons of fuel per week. Their initial bid uses \$4.00 as the base (current price). Thus if the price goes up to \$5.00; it would be \$1.00 x 160 gallons per week added to the Town's bill on a monthly basis.

Cordes asked when they would make their adjustment, and he indicated normally they would do it annually in December. (For the annual adjustment period). If we signed a contract that began April 1, they would normally use a prior year period. Because the Town needs a contract figure by December (and it was mentioned that this would likely be earlier given the timeline for SB2 preparation); it would take a calendar year prior to the month in which the estimate was calculated.

Queene said that Bestway uses what they pay for fuel to calculate any changes. Queene was agreeable to using whatever prior year period worked to get a budget number together. He provided a bill from another town to give the Board an idea of the fuel charges and how they are billed on a monthly basis.

Cordes restated that the \$211,000 contract price is for a three year timeframe, with an annual increase of 3%; and that it could be extended for two additional years.

Queene said he is the Operations Manager and has an office in Brentwood. He said they really want the Town of Fremont and that their niche is customer service.

He talked about all of their operations and their focus on safety. He said there is a Safety Director in Brentwood who does route rides, as does he. He said trucks do not go off the asphalt, there are often monitors who follow the trucks. He said that with regard to the safety record in the two years he has been with the company, he has never written anyone up. He said employees wear hard hats when dumping out but not when driving. They have strict rules about wearing safety vests at all times.

He said he personally will fix any unresolved problems that arise along the route.

Cordes said that Mike Hastings last week had talked about single stream recycling and their commitment to recycling. With commodity prices dropping, Cordes questioned if they would have the same level of commitment if commodity prices went even lower. Queene said they would. Fremont needs to work on more recycling to get things out of the waste stream.

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Cordes explained that the Board is looking to make a decision this evening so that we have information available for a budget decision at Town Meeting. The Board will not be in a position to sign a contract until after that funding is approved on Saturday night.

Queene said they still could be up and running the first week of April if awarded the contract. He said Bestway is very excited and wants to take the town on.

Queene said he runs the facility in Raymond and one in Concord as well.

With no further questions, Selectmen thanked Queene for his time and he left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Richard Butler came into the meeting at 6:50 pm. Guerwood Holmes came into the meeting at 6:55 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 06 March 2008 and 11 March 2008. Both sets of minutes were approved by the Board.

At 7:00 pm Department Head session began. Guerwood Holmes came up to the table as he indicated he had a quick matter for the Board's consideration. He said he received a complaint today from Henry Enaire (and has received others) regarding Bean Road.

Holmes said that the road is posted for no thru trucking currently, but that it is falling part and he is not sure it is fully from trucks, somewhat due to water and the narrow width of the road. Mr Enaire complained about trucking coming from Iron Wheel and that it is steady and bad, (a lot of truck traffic).

Holmes said he was here to see the Board because he is tired of getting these complaints from people and feels this is an enforcement issue. The gate they use to exit the property in Danville onto Bean Road is in Danville. There is a gate out of the property in Fremont, but that one is not the one the trucks use.

Holmes said he would talk with Chief Janvrin tomorrow about this issue as well. Cordes said the Selectmen would also pass on this expressed concern.

Holmes thanked the Board and left the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Richard Butler then came to the table. He brought the Board a copy of the Exeter All Health Hazard Region 18 Point of Distribution Plan. These had been dropped off at the Safety Complex and given to Butler. This is the end result of the past 18 months or so regarding the POD planning. Without an Emergency Management Director, the Plan was left with the Board. Butler said he had reviewed it. Carlson will contact Ken Burkenbush in Exeter for updated information.

There was discussion about the operations of the Fire Rescue Department and having the Board attend an officers meeting in April or May. This will possibly be done prior to the officers meeting on May 1 from 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

At 7:25 pm Richard Butler left the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

2. Guerwood Holmes has bought a new sander from H P Fairfield for the cost of \$12,400; it ended up going into Guerwood's truck and not as previously reported in Leon Holmes Jr's truck. Selectmen

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reviewed a letter to the Trustees of Trust Funds for release of money from Capital Reserve Fund to cover this purchase. The Board requested removal of \$12,400 from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund, up \$90 from the initial estimate. Cordes moved to send a letter of request to the Trustees of Trust Funds in the amount of \$12,400. Bolduc seconded. The vote was unanimously approved and the Board signed this letter.

3. Board members have been registered for the NHMA Regional Meeting on March 25th in Hampton NH.
4. Carlson reported follow-up information received today from Dina Bonito (a Beede Hill Road resident) regarding Verizon and cable television services. Mrs Bonito said Verizon television services are not available in Fremont and that she does not have them. She indicated she has Verizon FIOS internet and telephone service but that the TV is not yet available. She discussed with Carlson the services available and the proposed deal with Fairpoint.

Additionally, a letter was received from the NH PUC yesterday indicating that they have no jurisdiction over cable television companies or the services they provide. The letter references the Board of Selectmen as franchising authority. The letter also states that consumers with complaints can file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau, which has a cable hot line (603 224 7212) or the Federal Communications Commission at 888 225 5322 or by email to fccinfo@fcc.gov.

5. The road posting signs have been put up and more research done into the statute. If the Town wants to consider this long-term, an Ordinance should be considered.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest dated March 14, 2008 in the amount of \$17,398.49. Motion was made to approve it by Bolduc and seconded by Cordes. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.
2. Selectmen reviewed a form for Use of the Town Hall on Sunday April 6, 2008 for a birthday party from 12 noon to 4:00 pm from Jessica MacNeil. Bolduc moved to approve this use of the Town Hall. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.
3. Letters were prepared to the Trustee of Trust Funds; and one will be completed for the Post Office. These letters will be signed on Saturday when the Board meets prior to Town Meeting.
4. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.
5. A SB 2 calender from 2008 was briefly reviewed to get an idea on timeline for the 2009 budget process, hearings, and deliberative session. A DRA technical assistance bulletin was also distributed for members to review information on the process. Carlson said that it would be beneficial to put a calendar together soon so that the process can go more smoothly this fall.
6. Carlson asked the Board for an update on perambulations. Jeanne Nygren has organized all of the perambulations and put a spreadsheet together to figure out what is yet to be done. The only town that is fully done, including paperwork, is Danville. Brentwood and Epping are still to be walked, but Raymond, Kingston, Chester and Sandown need to be walked and all of these six latter towns need to have paperwork signed.

Bolduc suggested that Jeanne contact each of these towns and get the contact information from the Selectmen's Office on who does perambulations in each. Bolduc will make the follow-up calls. He also

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asked for the documents to be prepared for each town so that once the towns each get together with Fremont, they can sign the appropriate agreement.

Nygren can keep in touch with Peter Bolduc about this process as he will continue to see it through with Charles Bolduc and Gordon Copp.

At 7:30 pm Jim Nocella of Waste Management came into the meeting. Cordes explained the Board's purpose in meeting with the two low bidders.

Questions were posed about use of the 64 gallon toters. Nocella agreed that it tightens up the MSW and encourages more recycling. The driver doesn't have to get out of the truck, the cans are dumped with an automated arm. He said it is faster than picking up bags because they are not in and out of the truck. It eliminates a second person on the truck to reduce cost. He also said the process is clean and neat, no bagged trash is out, and animals cannot get into them. He said that MSW and recycling are picked up with two separate trucks.

Nocella said that at some point in the future, the next year or two, there will be more facilities that handle single stream recycling. He talked about this process including the screens, blowers, and magnets that make it happen. He said it is a combination of processes (by weight) that separates the streams.

He said it happens more in areas with curbside applications and there is not as much yet in NH due to the number of towns still using drop off areas (where people sort their own recycling). He said this also reduces MSW and increases recycling.

Carlson asked about how long it generally takes to get people comfortable with the use of the toters, Nocella thought within 30 days.

Carlson also asked for clarification of the \$208,800 proposal and whether we would start with that and switch to the \$205,500 proposal once the toters were implemented (within 90 days). After further discussion and questions from Cordes, Nocella said we could use the \$205,500 number at the onset with the goal of converting to the toters within 90 days.

Nocella clarified that their fuel surcharge proposal allows for an annual fuel adjustment charge with baseline of \$3.55 on an annual average basis. He said WM uses the US Department of Energy website for the fuel adjustment.

Nocella asked about the Town using the lower contract number and allowing WM to switch the Wednesday collection to Friday also within a 3-6 month time frame.

With regard to literature on the toters, he said a flyer will be mailed to everyone and it will be attached to the container when the container is delivered, for two copies delivered to them. Selectmen said that at least for this year, information can go out with the Town's monthly newsletter and be put on the Town's website.

Nocella said that the toters can be as far as three feet from the edge of the road. On snowstorm days, the worst case scenario is when snow starts to fall on a day that trash is to be collected.

Nocella said that WM recycles all green, brown, blue, and clear food and beverage containers (glass); they do not recycle dishes and china. All fiber and paper products are recyclable, including cardboard which needs to be cut down and bundled (does not have to be tied). Plastics numbered 1 and 2, clear or colored are acceptable, and all tin, steel, and aluminum.

There was discussion about toters getting completely damaged and how that replacement process occurs. They do replace lids and wheels. If a toter is stolen it can be replaced, but if it becomes recurring, they do charge the customer approximately \$50 for replacement toters.

Cordes asked about recycling percentages. Nocella said that recycling in a non-pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) program that recycling can get up into the mid 20%. With PAYT programs, towns are often 30 to 35% recycling. Nocella said that WM could support PAYT if that were a future consideration.

Annmarie Scribner came into the meeting at 8:18 pm.

There was discussion about PAYT and the cost of bags and such. Nocella said that one of the reasons people like this method is they do not have to buy bags, but it accomplishes many of the same recycling goals.

Cordes explained that we need to amend the Town's budget for whatever contract is chosen and that the Board would not be in a position to make a decision until after the vote on Saturday evening. The Board discussed having a meeting scheduled for Monday at the latest to make this decision.

Nocella confirmed in closing that he would let us start off at the \$205,500 contract price even if we don't begin with toters, but make that transition within 3-6 months. He said the baseline for fuel cost is \$3.55 and they use the US DOE website to do a lookback on 12 month average cost on fuel. He said they will continue recycling all products no matter what the commodities pricing changes might be.

Nocella estimated a 450 ton reduction in the waste stream (trash) and corresponding increase in recycling, equating to as much as \$30,000 in savings on tipping fees.

Mr Nocella left the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Annmarie Scribner spoke briefly with Carlson about a computer issue on the Tax computer. She left at 8:32 pm.

7. Selectmen reviewed a lot line merger application form for Robert and Margaret Bartley on lots 02-072 and 02-072.001. This proposes to reconsolidate the two lots he recently separated by deed. The Planning Board and the Bartley's counsel Larry Buswell, have approved and signed the forms already.

Selectmen reviewed the documents and wanted to condition their approval on the Bartley's writing and recording a combined deed that includes both parcels to avoid future confusion. Robert's name is on both deeds and Margaret's is currently only on the deed for 02-072.

Bolduc moved to approve this lot merger conditioned on the Bartley's having the two deeds rewritten into one, using the parent lot number of 02-072 prior to recording of the merger form, so that the new deed reference can be included on the cover page. Cordes seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0. Chairman Cordes signed the application form on behalf of the Board as per this vote.

8. The Energy Committee meets on Tuesday March 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Fremont Town Hall. Bolduc said he met with Thom Roy yesterday and Roy is working on putting something together on the Town Hall. Cordes is yet to meet with Chief Janvrin and a representative of the Fire Rescue Department.

OTHER BUSINESS

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Selectmen discussed the reduction possible in tipping fees if going to the toter program; and several calculations were done to decide on the amount for an amendment to the budget proposed for Town Meeting. The budget number included for the Cape Disposal Contract was \$135,401. Using the lowest proposed number of \$198,000 (which needs to be adjusted for fuel – monthly) will be adjusted to a nine month cost; added to what has been paid to Cape for the first three months of 2008. This will result in an amendment of approximately \$60,000.

Additional funds will also be needed for the Highway budget to cover winter maintenance costs. The sum total of these changes is \$58,000 and includes \$5,000 in labor and overtime, \$30,000 in winter equipment hire, \$5,000 in winter sand, \$15,000 in winter salt, truck fuel of \$1,000; and \$2,000 in plow and sander parts and maintenance.

Bob Rydeen was invited to the Saturday session by Cordes during polling on Tuesday.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 10:00 pm motion was made by Bolduc to enter non-public session to discuss personnel matters and hardship issues pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

The Board came out of non-public session on a motion from Bolduc and second from Cordes. No decisions were made,

NEXT WEEK

The Board will meet at 3:30 pm on Saturday March 15, 2008 at the Fremont Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Office, prior to Town Meeting. The Board will sign the follow-up letters from this evening on Saturday; and make a final decision on when to meet to discuss the trash contract.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday March 20, 2008 at 6:00 pm.

There was discussion and thanks expressed to Bolduc for his four year return trip to the Board of Selectmen and his service to the Town. Tonight is his last regular meeting.

With no further business, motion was made by Bolduc and seconded by Cordes to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator